

BY ROBT. A. THOMPSON.

SELECTED POETRY.

The Burial at Sea.

BY CHARLES SPRAGUE.

Spare him one little week, Almighty Power!
Yield to his father's house his dying hour:
Once more, once more let them who hold him dear
But see his face, his faltering voice but hear:
We know, alas! that he is marked for death,
But let his mother watch his parting breath;
O, let him die at home!

It could not be!
At midnight, on a dark and stormy sea,
Far from his kindred and his native land,
His pangs unsought by tender woman's hand,
The patient victim in his cabin lay,
And meekly breathed his blameless life away.

Wrapped in the raiment that it long must wear,
His body to the deck they slowly bear;
How eloquent, how awful in its power,
The silent lecture of death's Sabbath hour!
One voice that silence breaks—the prayer is said.

And the last rite man pays to man is paid;
The flashing waters mark his resting place,
And fold him round in one long, cold embrace;
Bright bubbles for a moment sparkle o'er,
Then break, to be, like him, beheld no more;
Down, countless fathoms down, he sinks to sleep,
With all the nameless shapes that haunt the deep.

Rest, loved one, rest—beneath the billows swell
Where tongue ne'er spoke, where sunlight never fell:
Rest—till the God who gave thee to the deep
Rouse thee, triumphant, from the long, long sleep.

And you, whose hearts are bleeding, who deplore
That ye must see the wanderer's face no more,
Weep—he was worthy of the purest grief;
Weep—in such sorrow ye shall find relief:
While o'er his doom the bitter tear ye shed,
Memory shall trace the virtues of the dead:
These cannot die—for you, for him, they bloom,
And scatter fragrance round his ocean tomb.

COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE COURIER.

Mr. Editor: I am not a Cross Anchor Progressionist, nor a would-be Tom Payneite, branding every man, woman and child, differing with me in opinion concerning politics, Religion, Spirit Rappings, &c., with that pretty little high-steem-pressure epithet—"Pope Niphead, the First!" but I would rather incline to the sentiment of that other "Pope," so beautifully expressed in his "universal prayer":

"Let not this weak, unknowing hand,
Presume thy head to throw;
And lead damnation round the land,
On each I judge thy foe."

I have never flattered myself with the thought that I could "one day" be a *mediocrity*, nor yet that I am, or ever will be, "worthy and well qualified" to hold communion with ghosts or hobgoblins; but, I have some reasons for believing that I am a *common man*, and professing common sympathies for a certain class of suffering humanity, I thus write.

Our summer is gone and winter is upon us. Crops are being gathered, and the report on all grain crops is short—very short! The price of provisions runs high, and beats "quick and strong" to the tune—more than a 100.

The spirit of speculation and trading is rife in the land; with a money market unusually "tight"; and to complete the picture, the Editor, Doctor, Merchant, School-Teacher and Minister, are hopelessly expecting to share with the people for whom they have labored.

But, Mr. Editor, the Poor! the *Providence-tally Poor!* the orphan Poor! What will become of them?

A few months since, I visited many of the most prominent Towns and Cities in South Carolina, in which, we doubtless have some of the best literary institutions in the world. I refer more particularly to the Schools in Charleston. Let any man with a heart in him visit those Schools—not as too many do, stay ten minutes—look round hastily, and pass out with hands uplifted, and vexed at the meagerness of the buildings in the English language, because they cannot think of a number sufficient to express their astonishment—enter them calmly, and be thoughtful, and if he does not come away a better man, he will have a better right to exclaim with the poet:

"O! this heart! this hard unfeeling heart of mine!"

But just at this point I am met by a man saying, as many have said—"you need not visit the Charleston School-question, it will not do for the country, and if it would, we are not ready for it yet. I answer, and I trust understandingly, that it will suit the country—the whole country! and in regard to its adoption, "now is the accepted time." I leave this part of the subject, however, in the hands of those who have the power and the means to do the work—I mean the Legislature.

I visited the orphan School in Charleston, and spent nearly one whole day with Teachers and Students—made the acquaintance of, and enquired into the whole matter, which was then and there explained to me, and immediately I thought of the orphans in Pickens, and asked myself this question, Can't we do better?

I stepped into a School House the other morning, on some business with the Teacher, and saw some little boys and girls with bare feet, and almost naked, shivering with cold, and the least one crying. I enquired after their names, and was answered, "They are orphans."

I shall come more directly to the subject in my next communication—I mean the claims of God's poor in our midst, and especially, orphan children at school.

PICKENS.

He that prolongs his meals, and sacrifices his time, as well as his other conveniences, to his luxury, how quickly does he outstrip his pleasure.

Letter from Senator Mason.

To the Editors of the Constitution: It is right and due to truth, that the material facts attending the late incendiary attack on the town of Harper's Ferry should be correctly understood.

There was no insurrection, in any form whatsoever, on the part of any of the inhabitants or residents of that town or its vicinity. There is little doubt that such insurrection was fully expected by the leader of the armed miscreants who came from the adjoining States, clandestinely, under cover of night, into the town—an expectation in which they were woefully disappointed, as fully admitted by themselves. The fact is undoubtedly that not a man, black nor white, joined them after they came into Virginia, or gave them aid or assistance in any form.

It is true that after their capture their leader (Brown) stated that he had reason to expect such assistance, and had been disappointed by the following facts: First, that he had undisputed possession of the town from about midnight, on Sunday until after midday on Monday, when the people of the adjoining country, learned the state of things, got together in armed bands, and made a decent upon the town. Second, that during this period they seized and held in custody, beside the slaves of Mr. Washington and Mr. Allstedt, taken in the neighborhood, some five or six other slaves belonging to residents at Harper's Ferry, and found in the streets.

It is said that they put spears or lances in the hands of two or three of the negroes and compelled them to stand in the character of sentinels at the door of the engine-house, occupied by the incendiaries, but at the first assault made by the citizens, the slaves threw away their spears and fled to their homes for refuge. Third, they had in confinement, in addition, some thirty or forty other persons, who were found unarmed in the streets in the early hours of the morning, but no adherent or sympathizer turned up amongst them.

In addition to all this, after careful inquiry and investigation on the spot, I could not learn that any man of any color (save one, hereafter to be noticed) was even suspected of being in any way accessory or privy to the plot. The exception was of a man named Cook, who came to Harper's Ferry a year or two since in the character of school-master, married there, and who, after the event, it appeared, was an emissary of Brown's and had been associated with him in Kansas. Cook imparted the plans of Brown to none in Virginia, so far as known; or, if he did, it is certain that none acted on them. He accompanied the party to Mr. Washington's, which seized him and his negroes and brought them off in the night, but none of the latter evinced any purpose to follow his fortunes. On the contrary, those that he carried off the same night into Maryland escaped from him there and returned.

I think I am warranted, on the foregoing facts, in the belief that no engagement or promises of aid from any, of any race, were given to Brown inviting his descent. On the part of the negroes, it is certain that the only emotion evinced by them was of alarm and terror, and their only refuge sought at their master's homes.

Of the conspiracy, outside of this State, enough has transpired, or been obtained from papers taken with Brown's effects, to show that he acted from impressions made upon him by abolition tracts, newspapers, and orators, in the circles he frequented in the non-slaveholding States. These impressions were that it required only to put arms within immediate reach to bring about immediate insurrection in the slaveholding States—a doctrine openly inculcated, as is known, by abolition leaders. Thus impressed, he embarked on this desperate enterprise with but nineteen men; but he had arms and weapons secreted in the mountains and thinly-populated country on the Maryland side of the river, and within four or five miles of the Virginia line at Harper's Ferry, with abundant ammunition, to have placed an effective weapon in the hands of each of at least fifteen hundred or two thousand men. The exact number of these arms can never be ascertained, as they were carried off in great numbers when first discovered, or brought in by the citizens and companies of volunteers who came from a distance, and before possession of them was taken by the regular military authorities. Amongst them were one thousand pikes or lances, composed of a steel blade, sharpened at the point and at both edges, some six or eight inches long, and tapering from an inch or inch and a half to the point, strongly and securely fixed on uniform wooden handles five or six feet in length—a most effective arm for hands unskilled in military weapons—leaving no doubt for whom they were destined.

The whole military equipment possessed by Brown, and seized after his capture, could not have cost less than \$10,000, consisting, amongst other things, of some two hundred Sharpe's rifles, with a number of six-shooter pistols, contained in the manufacturer's boxes, and not yet used, a proportionate supply of fixed ammunition for the rifles, with caps, &c., in the original boxes, hospital stores, pick-axes and shovels, unstained with use, and a large box containing ten kegs of powder.

A grave inquiry remains, which will be diligently, and, I trust, successfully prosecuted, to ascertain whence the funds were derived for this military expedition of outlaws against a State of the Union, and who they were aiding with money to furnish arms to such a leader for such a purpose.

It remains only to add that, so far as can be discovered, not one of the nineteen escaped. I could not correctly ascertain the number killed—some ten or eleven it is known were killed—some were shot in attempting to escape across the river, and their bodies not recovered; five only were captured alive, amongst them their leader, Brown; two of the five were negroes; one, a mulatto, reports that he came from Ohio to join this expedition; the other a black says that he came from Harrisburg, Pa., with the like purpose; both allege that they were deceived by Brown as to the objects of the expedition.

Not a slave escaped or attempted to escape during the tumult. Of the few carried off by Cook across the river all escaped from him and came safely back but one, who, it appears, was drowned whilst crossing the river homeward bound.

Very respectfully, yours,

J. M. MASON

Selma Va., Oct. 21, 1859.

More Harper's Ferry Disclosures—Two Years Secret History of Abolitionism.

A batch of some five columns of letters, written during 1859, by one Col. Hugh Forbes, appears in the New York Herald of Friday, purporting to disclose the fact that for the last year and a half, at least, the project of the Harper's Ferry outbreak was known to Senators Sumner, Seward, Hale, Gov. Chase, of Ohio, and others, and that they suffered the project to ripen and to bear the disastrous fruit that it has borne, without effort to the contrary. The whole, however, rests on the assertions of the aforesaid Col. Forbes. The Herald gives the leading statements from the correspondence, as follows:

Col. Forbes, an old comrade of Garibaldi's in 1848, and since then a refugee in this country, was induced to go to Kansas a couple of years since, to co-operate with Ossawatimie Brown, and to impart to his raw recruits a little instruction in the art of war. Forbes and Brown pulled together well enough for some months, until there came to be a misunderstanding in regard to the pay. Forbes appealed from Brown to the general abolition commissariat in the East, but found that he was doomed to go unpaid all round. Horace Greeley, when appealed to, fell back on the strict letter of the law, and plead that he was not bound by Forbes' contract with Brown. Sanborn was the secretary of the Massachusetts Emigration Aid Society, and Howe, a well known abolitionist of Boston, kept paltering with Forbes until, in the words of one of his own letters, his family's credit was stopped at the French or Italian restaurant where they used to get their meals, in Paris. Forbes became indignant against Brown and the humanitarians, as he styles them, and denounced them all in pretty round terms. But still the troubles of his family did not wear him altogether from the work to which he had lent his hand. On the contrary, he devised a plan, which he submitted to his abolition friends North, to perform effectually the "Kansas work" that Gerrit Smith speaks of in his letters.

Forbes' plan was simply an organized system of stampeding slaves along the border States, and thus gradually driving the institution further South. Brown's project was declared—so long ago as May, 1858, to be identical with that which has had such a miserable failure at Harper's Ferry. Forbes was too experienced a stager not to see the inevitable result of such a ridiculous project, and much of his correspondence is taken up with denunciations of Brown's crazy ideas, and of appeals to the leading republicans to stop Brown or to denounce him.

It appears by this correspondence that among the persons to whom he denounced the Harper's Ferry project a year and a half ago, was Senator Wm. H. Seward. He had an interview with that Senator in Washington city, in May, 1858, and, as appears by one of his letters, he went fully into the whole matter. Again, he had interviews with Sumner and Hale also in Washington.

Forbes' letters indicate another thing, and that is that speculation in the rise of cotton had something to do with the Harper's Ferry outbreak. The correspondence says Old Brown told Forbes that a member of the house of Lawrence, Stone & Company, (celebrated for the \$87,000 freewool movement in Congress, a few years ago,) had promised him \$8,000 if he succeeded in his Harper's Ferry dash. But Forbes denounced the project.

The first letter is addressed to "F. B. Sanborn, Concord, Mass."—"the F. B. S." from whom Brown acknowledged several remittances of money, and who is, or was, the Secretary of the Massachusetts Emigrant Aid Society. The following head note is prefixed to the letter:

"On the 27th December I wrote to Senator Charles Sumner, at Boston, requesting him to see what could be done in the case. The copy was not taken. Mr. Sumner transmitted the letter through Dr. Howe to Mr. Sanborn, who replied (1st Jan.) alleging ignorance of my engagement with Captain Brown."

The next letter is the same person, and is prefaced by the following head note:

On the 15th of January Mr. Sanborn

replied to mine of the 9th. He explained that he had done much to aid the cause; that he had caused \$3000 in money and arms to be given to Captain B., also \$5,000 to be voted to him by the Chicago Committee, of which he had received \$500; also, had done many other things of a similar nature—as \$500 recently, for "secret service"—adding that, if he had known of the engagement between Captain B. and myself, he would have supported my wife and children, rather than allow what has happened to take place.

It appears that Brown and Forbes were brought in rapport by one of the revered editors of the New York Independent—that is Rev. Joshua Leavitt. It is due to Senator Seward to add that Forbes, in reference to his having gone into the whole matter to that senator, says he (the senator) expressed regret that he had been told, and said that he in his position ought not to have been informed of the circumstances. To Senator Hale, in his interview at Washington, Forbes says he did not enter into the details of John Brown's projects but of the other matters. Forbes says he sent letters to Governor Chase, who found money; and Gov. Fletcher, who contributed arms.

THE HARPER'S FERRY ATROCITY—A SENSIBLE DEPUCTION.—We make the following extract from an editorial in the New York Times:

And of itself it is simply an angry meteor shot athwart the sky, by which slaveholders and slaves alike seem to have been not unreasonably appalled, and which has startled the North, we feel warranted in saying, quite as thoroughly as the South. It is a portent certainly not to be lightly pondered, that such a grotesquely frightful episode should have been possible in our current history; but if we are to profit by the shock it has administered, we must honestly look the fact in the face, that this occurrence shows us, as nothing else could, what vast possibilities of evil sleep in our angry sectional politics. We have been suffering the extremists of one and other party to go on trading for years in the fiercest of internecine passions as if they were no mischief could ever come of such light matters to so great a nation as ours. Mad John Brown has done the State this service at least, that he has dashed this false and foolish confidence in pieces. If we are not really the blindest people that ever existed, and judiciously set apart for destruction, we ought now to begin to see that the most important political work we have to do is to combine as one people in the resolve to put this tremulous social question of slavery out of the reach of partisan agitators. It is a madness, to which the madness of John Brown was statesman-like good sense, to trifle any longer in caucuses and conventions with issues so full of the very life's blood of one great section of the Confederacy. The South owes it to herself to press this view of the matter calmly upon the Northern mind; and she may rest assured that her appeal to the practical conservatism of the free States will not be made in vain, if it be made temperately, earnestly and in good faith.

HORRIBLE MURDER.—We have received a communication from Mr. T. R. Collins, Coroner of Orangeburg District, informing us of an inquest held on Monday, the 25th, on the body of Franklin Brown, a young lad only four years of age, who was most cruelly murdered by some unknown persons. Deceased was the only child of Mrs. Elizabeth Brown, who, for some time past, has been residing with Mrs. H. L. Jennings, of Orangeburg, near whose residence the mutilated body of the lad was found on Monday night. The coroner and the jury thoroughly investigated the matter, but we regret to say that nothing was elicited to throw any light on the mysterious murder of the poor little innocent. The wounds were on the head of the child, and were such as must have caused immediate death. Verdict—"That Franklin Brown was murdered by some person or persons to the jury unknown."

[Charleston Mercury.]

HORRIBLE MURDER IN YANEE.—A bloody affray occurred at Barnsville, in the adjoining County of Yanee, on Friday night last, between Big Jim Boon and C. M. A. F. Keith, which resulted in the death of the latter. The circumstances our informants state were about as follows: Keith had entered a room in a hotel about midnight, and having lighted his pipe seated himself on the side of a bed, when Boon entered the room, and after a few angry words B. caught K. by the hair and threw him on the floor, and with a large knife inflicted some nine or ten stabs in the throat, breast and back: either one of which it was supposed would have proved fatal. He expired in a few minutes after, and was found weltering in his blood.

Boon made his escape and is supposed to have made for Tennessee. A reward of \$100 is offered by the County Court, and the Governor will, no doubt, offer \$250 more for his apprehension.—Abbeville (N. C.) News, 3d.

THE FREE COLORED PEOPLE.—The National Intelligencer says it is proper to be mentioned, among the other incidents of the time, that on Tuesday last, when the excitement on the subject of the Harper's Ferry insurrection was at its highest, a committee which had been deputed by the free colored population of Georgetown, waited upon the Mayor of that town, and respectfully proffered him their united and thorough co-operation in any service in which he might see fit to employ them in the preservation of the public order and peace.

New brooms sweep clean.

Baltimore Rowdism.

There was an error in the transcription of the dispatch published yesterday morning relating to the Baltimore election.—We have the following further items concerning this disgraceful lawlessness:

BALTIMORE, Nov. 2, 3 p. m.—The election so far to-day has been a bloody one.—The reformers have been driven from the polls in some of the wards, the rowdies taking complete possession. In others there is a great deal of fighting, some persons killed and many wounded. It is feared the worst has not yet been reached.

NOVEMBER 2, 9 p. m.—Mr. Preston, the Democratic candidate in the Third District, was badly beaten over the head with a bill. In the seventh ward the reformers left the polls in the hands of the rowdies.

NOVEMBER 2, 9:45 p. m.—It is impossible to give a list of the outrages committed in Baltimore to-day. The reformers, after being driven from all but two of the wards, abandoned the whole city to the dominant party. So far as reported only two persons were killed outright, and three mortally wounded. A large number of persons were beaten, many of them seriously, besides a number of minor outrages, not positively ascertained where or by whom committed. It is reported that Mr. Preston has been assassinated. At latest accounts he was lying at Barnum's Hotel. The streets are deserted, except by the victorious party. A large delegation of Plug Uglies from Washington assisted in these outrages.

Further from Baltimore.

We have the following additional items from the Baltimore election on Wednesday: BALTIMORE, Nov. 2.—It became evident early in the day, that scenes of rioting and bloodshed would mark the election. At noon, the reports from the various wards showed that the Reformers stood no chance of securing an impartial vote.

The 3d ward was blocked up by rowdies and the police were inactive.

In the 10th ward, the rowdies compelled the Reformer Judge of the election to leave the polls, and all the Reform votes were driven away, beaten and otherwise maltreated.

In the 15th wards, Adam B. Kyle, a merchant of Hanover street, was shot and killed, and Geo. Kyle, his brother, dangerously shot.

In the 15th ward, the Reformers resisted with fire arms, and one of the notorious rowdy leaders was killed and two others wounded. Two Reformers were wounded.

In the 16th ward, the Reformers were driven off early.

In the 18th ward, the rowdies were in full possession, and one of the Reformers was severely beaten.

In the 5th ward, the Reformers were driven off early. A son of Joshua Vansant was severely beaten. Shots were fired, but with harmless result.

In the 1st, 2d and 4th wards the rowdies had the voting all to themselves.

In the 12th ward, the rowdies had a swirl and drove off all the Reformers. In this and the 15th ward, gangs of rowdies from Washington, aided those of this city. In the last named ward a boy was mortally shot in the breast.

These are only a portion of the incidents. In most of the wards, the Reformers were assaulted, beaten and maltreated.

In the 11th ward, a stronghold of the Reformers, Gen. McGill, a prominent Reformer made a speech and announced the withdrawal of Mr. John H. Thomas, Reformer candidate for State Attorney. The Reformers then all withdrew, finding it impossible to accomplish anything.

Wm. P. Preston, Democratic Candidate for Congress in the 3d district, is now lying at Barnum's Hotel, having been badly beaten with a billy over the head. The assault is said to have occurred in the 7th ward.

SECOND DISPATCH.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 2.—9:41 o'clock, P. M.—At 3 o'clock, Dr. Robinson, of the Central Reform Committee, came to the 12th ward poll, and announced that the Reformers were being driven from every ward except that and the 7th, and counselled those there to withdraw, to avoid further bloodshed; whereupon, Dr. Thomas, Reformer Judge of election, retired, and the contest was abandoned. Previously, the Reformers throughout the city withdrew, leaving the polls in the hands of the rowdies.

Numerous reports of minor outrages on private rights of citizens are in circulation in the several wards.

In the 2d ward, a German was shot in the hip. In the 5th, a man whose name is unknown, was dreadfully beaten.

The most reliable account is, that Wm. P. Preston, candidate for Congress, was assaulted at Govanstown, in Baltimore county. One account says he was beaten by an Irishman. There are so many reports that it is difficult to arrive at the truth.

Mr. Kyle was shot in the head. He was living an hour since, but in a hopeless condition, as the ball is buried in his brain.

The streets are nearly deserted to night, except by the victorious party. All the stores were closed at dark.

The proprietor of the Daily Exchange having been threatened with assault of his office, made a demand on the city authorities for protection.

THIRD DISPATCH.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 2.—11 o'clock, P. M.

—The Americans are rejoicing over their victory.

The Reformers deny that anything like an election has taken place.

All the officers being on the same ticket, it will be late before returns are received. In the 17th ward, the average American vote is 860; the highest Reform vote is 24.

Mr. Kyle died at 9 o'clock to-night.

Make a Note of It.

The following communication, from the Poe Dee (Georgetown, S. C.) Times, will, when taken in connection and linked with the marked maps of Brown and coadjutors, be well understood:

"Mr. Editor:—Inclosed I hand you a letter clipped from the Charleston Courier of the 24th. It is addressed to Alonzo G. Bradley, Esq., and was found among the papers that have recently turned up at Harper's Ferry. Some time in July or August last an individual who subscribed his name J. W. Bradley, made his appearance in our town and took up his abode at one of our hotels. He said he had been a practicing lawyer in New York, and had come to Georgetown for his health, and had no objections during this period to engage in teaching, or in the more arduous labors of his profession. He applied for a situation as teacher to one or two gentlemen, and perhaps proposed a law co-partnership with others. He was without any letters of recommendation when he arrived, and afterwards obtained only one such letter from a man in New York. He, of course, procured no situation.

"During his stay here he amused himself by seeking information in a general way about the population, habits, &c., of the District and its citizens. He had come, he said, by the advice of his physician, to remain six months, and he intended to do so—at all events he would stay until the Charleston Convention. He was a devout attendant at church, &c. So matters stood until the report of the Harper's Ferry difficulty became public here. He immediately took passage in the stage for the railroad. He was told on Friday last that he was an object of suspicion by the citizens. He replied that it made no difference, as he had already taken his passage for the stage of that evening—but for that he would stay and see it out.—He repaired to his hotel, and after an hour's absence, returned and said to the gentlemen with whom the previous conversation had occurred, that he had made up his mind to remain in town until Monday evening, and if the citizens desired it, they could search him or his effects. No search was entered upon, for the hour's absence at his hotel had probably put matters beyond the reach of successful search."

"The accounts which reached our town on Saturday morning stated, in reference to the Harper's Ferry affair, that sundry letters and documents had been found among the papers of the insurgents, and our prearranging attorney took French leave of the place on Saturday evening without footing his bill at the hotel. May not, therefore, Alonzo G. Bradley be J. W. Bradley (?) the abolitionist to whom the inclosed letter is addressed? And if so, does it not stand us in hand to welcome all such strangers hereafter to "hospital graves"? There is little doubt among the citizens that this fellow was an emissary in our midst. But as usual, we have waked up too late. Is it not a warning to keep ever ready and on the watch tower—with our senses about us and our powder dry? Bradley is a tall spare-built man, complexion rather florid, with sharp features—what is usually called "hatchet face"—dresses very common, and wears while here a rather comical old white hat. He left for the Northern Railroad on Saturday night last, and may have gone towards Charleston, as he was particularly anxious when here to learn something about Beaufort District."

In the same connection, we clip the following paragraph from the Cheraw Gazette, from which it will be seen that incendiary documents have been passing through the mails in that vicinity, and that public attention had been called to the fact:

"Within the past few months we have seen intercepted documents from more than one abolition State, announcing that such a conspiracy existed, and that the time was soon to come for its consummation. These documents have been circulated through the mails, and could hardly have entirely escaped the scrutinizing eyes of Post Masters. One of these documents, to our knowledge, was sent to the Post Master General, on his attention particularly directed to its fiendish contents. Why has not some action been taken by that Department to arrest these treasonable plottings?"

A DISTINCTION WITH DIFFERENCE.—"You've no wife, I believe?" said Mr. Blank to his neighbor. "No, sir," was the reply. "I never was married." "Ah!" said Mr. Blank, "you are a happy dog!" A short time after, Mr. Blank, addressing a married man, said: "You have a wife, sir?" "Yes, sir, a wife and three children." "Indeed!" said Mr. Blank, "you are a happy man!" "Why, Mr. Blank," said one of the company, "your remarks to the married and the unmarried seem to conflict somewhat." "Not at all," said Mr. Blank. "There is a difference in my statements. Please be more observing, sir. I said the man who had no wife was a 'happy dog,' and the man who had a wife was a 'happy man.' Nothing conflicting, sir—nothing at all. I know what I say, sir!"